

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: NEA/AFN:DLJAMESON

APPROVED BY: NEA/AFN:WSWEISLOGEL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 157767 SENT ACTION ALGIERS DTD 25 JUN

QTE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: BAGB, BEXP, AG

SUBJ: AGRIBUSINESS: ARID LAND DEVELOPMENT IN ALGERIA:

TSS FOLLOWUP

REF: ALGIERS 1235 1361 AND 1453: STATE 6578

1. CONCERNED USG AGENCIES (COMMERCE, AGRICULTURE, STATE AND AID) ARE IN AGREEMENT THAT ENCOURAGEMENT OF US INPUT TO ALGERIAN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IS DESIRABLE AND WOULD LIKE TO PURSUE PROPOSAL MADE BY GOA FURTHER. HOWEVER, SINCE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY GOA IN ITS LETTER AND NOTE IS VERY GENERAL IN NATURE IT IS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS WITH ASSURANCE THE SCOPE OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT OR THE PROSPECTS FOR ITS SUCCESS. ALSO IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE ALGERIANS HAVE EXPECTATIONS WHICH ARE BEYOND OUR CAPACITY TO FULFILL. THEREFORE BEFORE ARRIVING AT ANY DECISION TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT OR PROTOCOL WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT THE GOA UNDERSTAND CLEARLY THE LIMITED ROLE WHICH THE USG COULD

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PLAY IN FACILITATING THE PROPOSED PROJECTS AND WE MUST HAVE MORE DETAILS CONCERNING WHAT THEY HAVE IN MIND.

2. ALTHOUGH IT DOES NOT APPEAR IN THE BOUKLI LETTER OR THE

GOA DIPLOMATIC NOTE A KEY POINT IN BOUKLI'S CONVERSATION WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY LONG WAS THE QUESTION OF FINANCING.

SINCE THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO POSSIBILITY OF PARTICIPATION BY THE EXIM BANK IN SUCH PROJECTS AT THIS TIME THERE IS LITTLE THAT THE USG WILL BE ABLE TO DO IN THE AREA OF FINANCING. ESSENTIALLY IT WOULD BE UP TO THE GOA AND THE FIRMS WITH WHICH IT SIGNS CONTRACTS TO WORK OUT CREDIT ARRANGEMENTS. COMMERCE IS WILLING, IF THE GOA SO DESIRES, TO MAKE PRELIMINARY INQUIRIES ABOUT THE EXTENT OF POTENTIAL INTEREST BY U.S. AGRIBUSINESS COMPANIES IN THE PROPOSED PROJECTS, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITIES FOR ARRANGING FINANCING, BUT WE DO NOT SEE HOW THE USG COULD BE OF ANY FURTHER ASSISTANCE IN THIS AREA.

3. IF GIVEN THIS SITUATION, THE GOA IS INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING THE MATTER FURTHER WE WILL NEED MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DETAILS OF THEIR PROPOSALS. AGRICULTURE CAN SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO ALGERIA TO EXPLORE THE MATTER AND HELP DEFINE REQUIREMENTS WITH GOA OFFICIALS. AGRICULTURE HAS NO FUNDS WHICH CAN BE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE BUT AID FUNDS UNDER SECTION 661 AUTHORITY CAN BE USED PROVIDED THERE IS A REASONABLE EXPECTATION OF FOLLOW-ON SECTION 607 INVOLVEMENT WITH A USG AGENCY ON A COUNTRY-FIANCED BASIS. (ARTICLE 507 DEALS WITH REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE). EMBASSY CAN CONFIRM THIS EXPECTATION.

4. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY WOULD BE FOR EMBASSY TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSALS FURTHER WITH BOUKLI AND, IF THE RESULTS OF THESE DISCUSSIONS SO WARRANT, WE COULD THEN ARRANGE TO MEET WITH BOUKLI DURING HIS PLANNED VISIT TO THE U.S. LATER THIS SUMMER TO ELABORATE ON POSSIBILITIES FOR AN AGREEMENT. WHATEVER THE CASE WE NEED MORE INFORMATION ON THE SPECIFICS OF THE ALGERIAN PROPOSALS (FOR EXAMPLE, LOCATION OF PROJECTS, GOA AGENCIES INVOLVED (IN ADDITION TO MIN AG). AND IDENTITY OF FOREIGN FIRMS WHICH HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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ALREADY WORKED ON 20,000 HECTARE PROJECTS.)

5. EMBASSY IS AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS OUOUTLINED ABOVE WITH THE GOA IF AND WHEN IT DEEMS APPROPRIATE. ANY COMMENTS OR ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTIONS WHICH EMBASSY OR GOA HAVE WOULD BE APPRECIATED AND WILL BE GIVEN FULL CONSIDERATION. ROBINSON UNQTE
KISSINGER

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